

John Griffiths AC / AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-406
Ein cyf/Our ref JG/06570/12

William Powell AM

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28 July 2012

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 9 July advising that the Petitions Committee has received a petition relating to the current consultation on Marine Conservation Zones. I note that the 6501 signatories are opposed to all of the potential site options in North Wales and that they are calling upon the Welsh Government not to designate any of these sites as Marine Conservation Zones.

I appreciate that people are worried about the effect that highly protected sites might have on local communities in North Wales – especially on fishing, leisure and tourism activities. I would therefore stress that no decisions have been made about final site locations, their size or boundaries.

The current first stage consultation is focused on gathering more information and views from people, especially in local coastal communities, about how they use the areas, how they might be affected by a highly protected designation and how any effects could be minimised.

I will consider carefully all responses received from the first phase of the consultation process before deciding on next steps, including views on the suitability of the approach itself and any alternative proposals.

I expect to publish an analysis of the consultation responses, alongside a statement of next steps, as soon as possible in the autumn.

Best wishes,

John Griffiths AC / AM
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Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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